



Figs. 11-14 show various geometries for optical fiber bundles in an optical fiber cable;

Fig. 11 15 shows the optical fiber cable of Fig. 10 with an added rip cord.

Detailed Description

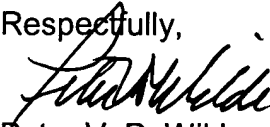
As stated above, optical fiber bundles comprise two main categories, randomly bundled optical fibers, and optical fibers organized in a ribbon configuration. For convenience in this description, and because optical fiber ribbons present a special case of optical fiber bundle in terms of cable performance, the discussion below will focus on optical fiber ribbon cable. However, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that much of the description is equally applicable to optical fiber bundles with randomly organized fibers.

Referring to Fig. 1, an optical fiber ribbon stack 11 is shown encased in a cable sheath. The cable sheath comprises tube 12 and tube coating 13. In this illustration, the optical fiber ribbon stack assembly has three ribbons, each ribbon with six fibers. Ribbons with four or eight fibers and more, are common and commercially available. It will be understood that these numbers are arbitrary for the purpose of illustration. For more details on the structure of optical fiber ribbons see U.S. Patent No. 4,900,126, which is incorporated by reference herein. The number of fibers per ribbon may range from two to more than twenty. The number of ribbons in the stack may also vary substantially from the three ribbons illustrated here. These numbers will determine the aspect ratio of the stack, i.e. the width vs. height. Optical fiber ribbons may be stacked with the plane of the ribbons the long dimension of the stack, or the short dimension. In



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Respectfully,


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